

REMARKS

Claims 9, 10, 15 to 17 and 31 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 objections, as required by the Examiner.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 21 as being anticipated based upon the Nien et al. '184 patent under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully traversed. In addition, the rejection of Claims 1 to 10 and 19 to 30 as being obvious and unpatentable based upon the Nien et al. '184 patent in view of the Bellinger '562 patent under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is also respectfully traversed. Further, the rejection of Claims 1, 11 to 18 and 31 to 42 as being obvious and unpatentable based upon the Nien et al. '184 patent in view of the Chang '889B1 patent under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is also respectfully traversed.

The Nien '184 patent does not disclose or teach the following elements of amended Claim 1:

a) a first holding wall member having mounted thereon a first curtain rod holding prong member and a second curtain rod holding prong member;

b) a second holding wall member having mounted thereon a third curtain rod holding prong member and a fourth curtain rod holding prong member; and

c) each of the first and second holding wall members having upper and lower channels, respectively, which are slidably received within the U-shaped conventional blind bracket mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods.

The Nien '184 patent discloses a decorative plate assembling structure for the upper beam of a blind device. There is no teaching of first and second holding members having curtain rod holding prong members thereon for holding one or more curtain rods. Additionally, there is no teaching of holding members each having upper and lower channels for sliding into each of the U-shaped blind bracket mounting devices for preventing one or more curtain rods from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices.

The Bellinger '562 patent does not disclose or teach the following elements of amended Claim 1:

a) a first bracket housing including a first holding wall member having an upper channel, a lower channel, a first side perimeter edge and a second side perimeter edge.

b) a second bracket housing including a second holding wall member having an upper channel, a lower channel, a third side perimeter edge and a fourth side perimeter edge; and

c) each of the first and second holding wall members having upper and lower channels, respectively, which are slidably received within the U-shaped conventional blind bracket mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods.

The Bellinger '562 patent discloses a curtain holder bracket for mounting on a window frame. There is no teaching of first and second holding wall members each having upper and lower channels for sliding into each of the U-shaped blind bracket mounting devices for preventing one or more curtain rods from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices.

The Nien '184 patent does not disclose or teach the following elements of amended Claim 21:

a) a first holding wall member having attached thereto a first curtain rod holding prong member having a first side wall with an upper first prong tab member thereon, and the first holding wall member having attached thereto a second curtain rod holding prong member having a second side wall with an upper second prong tab member thereon;

b) a second holding wall member having attached thereto a third curtain rod holding prong member having a third side wall with an upper third prong tab member thereon, and the second holding wall member having attached thereto a fourth curtain rod holding prong member having a fourth side wall with an upper fourth prong tab member thereon;

c) each of the first and second holding wall members having upper and lower channels, respectively, which are slidably received within the U-shaped conventional blind bracket mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods.

The Nien '184 patent discloses a decorative plate assembling structure for the upper beam of a blind device. There is no teaching of first and second holding members each having curtain rod holding prong members thereon having prong tab members thereon for holding one or more curtain rods. Additionally, there is no teaching of holding members each having upper and lower channels for sliding into each of the U-shaped blind bracket mounting devices for preventing one or more curtain rods from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices.

The Bellinger '562 patent does not disclose or teach the following elements of amended Claim 21:

- a) a first bracket housing including a first holding wall member having an upper channel, a lower channel, a first side perimeter edge and a second side perimeter edge.
- b) a second bracket housing including a second holding wall member having an upper channel, a lower channel, a third side perimeter edge and a fourth side perimeter edge; and
- c) each of the first and second holding wall members having upper and lower channels, respectively, which are slidably received within the U-shaped conventional blind bracket mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods.

The Bellinger '562 patent discloses a curtain holder bracket for mounting on a window frame. There is no teaching of first and second holding wall members each having upper and lower channels for sliding into each of the U-shaped blind bracket mounting devices for preventing one or more curtain rods from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices.

The Nien '184 patent does not disclose or teach the following elements of amended Claim 31:

- a) a first holding wall member having a first holding arm member mounted thereon with a first set of one or more rod holding sections therein, the first set of one or more rod holding sections of the first holding arm member for holding in place one end of the cylindrical curtain rod;

b) a second holding wall member having a second holding arm member mounted thereon with a second set of one or more rod holding sections therein, the second set of one or more rod holding sections of said second holding arm member for holding in place the other end of the cylindrical curtain rod;

c) each of the first and second holding wall members having upper and lower channels, respectively, which are slidably received within the U-shaped conventional blind bracket mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods.

The Nien '184 patent discloses a decorative plate assembling structure for the upper beam of a blind device. There is no teaching of first and second holding members each having curtain rod holding prong members having hold arm members mounted thereon with sets of one or more rod holding sections therein for holding one or more curtain rods. Additionally, there is no teaching of holding members each having upper and lower channels for sliding into each of the U-shaped blind bracket mounting devices for preventing one or more curtain rods from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices.

The Chang '889B1 patent does not disclose or teach the following elements of amended Claim 31:

a) a first bracket housing including a first holding wall member having an upper channel, a lower channel, a first side perimeter edge and a second side perimeter edge.

b) a second bracket housing including a second holding wall member having an upper channel, a lower channel, a third side perimeter edge and a fourth side perimeter edge; and

c) each of the first and second holding wall members having upper and lower channels, respectively, which are slidably received within the U-shaped conventional blind bracket mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods.

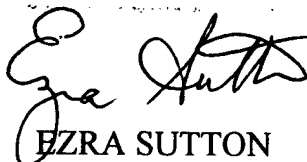
The Chang '881B1 patent discloses a curtain holder bracket for cylindrical curtain rods for mounting on a window frame. There is no teaching of first and second holding wall members each having upper and lower channels for sliding into each of the U-shaped blind bracket mounting devices for preventing one or more curtain rods from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, even if the prior art references of Nien et al. and Bellinger are combined, they do not teach or disclose the claimed features of amended independent Claims 1 and 21 and the Claims which depend therefrom. Further, even if the prior art references of Nien et al. and Chang are combined, they do not teach or disclose the claimed features of amended independent Claim 31 and the Claims which depend therefrom. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that applicant's Amended Claims 1, 3 and 5 to 44 should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

EZRA SUTTON, P.A.



EZRA SUTTON
Reg. No. 25,770

Plaza 9, 900 Route 9
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095
(732) 634-3520

ES/nk

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS
OVERVIEW

The curtain mounting brackets 10, 100 and 200 of the first, second and third embodiments of the present invention are represented in detail by Figures 1 through 15 of the patent drawings. The curtain mounting bracket 10 of the first embodiment is used in conjunction with a pair of blind bracket mounting devices 40A and 40B being substantially rectangular in shape. The first embodiment 10 is particularly used for attaching one or more standard flat curtain rods 12A and/or 12B in order to hold a curtain 14 and a valance 16, respectively, thereon. Each flat curtain rod 12A or 12B includes a pair of holding arms 22 and 24 and a holding section 30. Each holding arm 22 and 24 includes an opening 26 and 28, respectively, therein for receiving the upper prong tab members 84 and [86] 90 of each holding prong member 80 and 86, as depicted in Figures 1 and 3 of the drawings.

The curtain mounting brackets 100 and 200 of the second and third embodiments are used in conjunction with a pair of blind bracket mounting devices 40A and 40B being substantially rectangular in shape. The second embodiment 100 is used for a standard (single) cylindrical curtain rod 32A for holding a curtain 14 thereon, and the third embodiment 200 is particularly used for attaching one or more standard cylindrical curtain rods 32A and/or 32B in order to hold a curtain 14 and/or a valance 16, respectively, thereon. Each cylindrical curtain rod 32A or 32B includes a holding knob 34 and 36 having at each end an end holding section 35 and 37, respectively, and a center holding section 38. Each

end holding section 35 and 37 is, respectively, received within the holding arm members 140 or 240, as depicted in Figures 6, 8, 11 and 13 of the drawings. The second and third embodiments 100 and 200 are similar in structure except for the holding arm members 140 and 240 being structurally different in configuration. Holding arm member 140 includes a single rod holding section 142 in which to hold a single cylindrical curtain rod 32A thereon, as shown in Figure 8. Holding arm member 240 includes first (inner) and second (outer) rod holding sections 242 and 244 thereon for holding a pair cylindrical curtain rods 32A and 32B thereto, as shown in Figure 13 of the drawings.

Each of the blind bracket mounting devices 40A and 40B includes a top wall 42, a bottom wall 44, a rear wall 46 and a side wall 47 for forming an interior compartment 48 in order to receive the outer ends 50a and 50b of the blind mounting assembly 52 for holding a plurality of the vertical blind members 54 or for holding a plurality of the horizontal blind members 56, as shown in Figures 1, 6 and 11 of the drawings. Top wall 42 includes an upper retaining channel 43 for receiving the L-shaped retaining tab member 74 of the upper perimeter edge 72 of holding wall member 62. Bottom wall 44 also includes a lower retaining channel 45 for receiving the L-shaped retaining tab member 78 of the lower perimeter edge 76 of holding wall member 62.

FIRST EMBODIMENT 10

The curtain mounting bracket 10 and its component parts of the first embodiment of the present invention are represented in detail by Figures 1 through 5 of the patent drawings.

The curtain mounting brackets 10 are used for attaching one or more standard flat curtain rods 12A and/or 12B in conjunction with a pair of blind bracket mounting devices 40A and 40B of a blind mounting assembly 52 having a plurality of horizontal blind members 56 thereon, such that the flat curtain rods 12A and 12B are used to hold a curtain 14 and a valance 16 thereon, as depicted in Figure 1 of the drawings.

Each curtain mounting bracket 10 includes a bracket housing 60 having a holding wall member 62 and integrally connected outer and inner holding prong member 80 and 86 thereon, as depicted in Figure 2 and 3 of the drawings. Holding wall member 62 includes a front wall surface 64, a rear wall surface 66, left and right side perimeter edges 68 and 70, an upper perimeter edge 72 having an upper L-shaped retaining tab member 74 thereon, and a lower perimeter edge 76 having a lower L-shape retaining tab member 78 thereon. First side perimeter edge 68 includes an integrally connected outer holding prong member 80 having a prong holding side wall 82 with an upper prong tab member 84 thereon. Second side perimeter edge 70 includes an integrally connected inner holding prong member 86 having a prong holding side wall 88 with an upper prong tab member 90 thereon. The upper prong tab members 84 and 90 are received with tab receiving openings 26 and 28 of each holding arm 22 and 24,

respectively, of the standard flat curtain rods 12A and 12B, as shown in Figures 1 and 3 of the drawings.

SECOND EMBODIMENT 100

The curtain mounting bracket 100 and its component parts of the second embodiment of the present invention are represented in detail by Figures 6 through 10 of the patent drawings. The curtain mounting brackets 100 are used for attaching a single standard cylindrical curtain rod 32a in conjunction with a pair of blind bracket mounting devices 40A and 40B of a blind mounting assembly [52] 50 having a plurality of vertical blind members 54 thereon, such that the single cylindrical curtain rod 32A is used to hold a curtain 14 or a valance 16 thereon, as depicted in Figure 6 of the drawings.

Each curtain mounting bracket 100 includes a bracket housing 120 having a holding wall member 122 and an integrally attached holding arm member 140 with a rod holding section 142 thereon, as depicted in Figures 7 and 8 of the drawings. Holding wall member 122 includes a front wall surface 124, a rear wall surface 126, an upper perimeter edge 128 having an upper L-shaped retaining tab member 130 thereon, a lower perimeter edge 132 having a lower L-shaped retaining tab member 134 thereon, and side perimeter edges 136 and 138, as shown in Figures 7, 9 and 10 of the drawings. Front wall surface 124 includes an integrally attached holding arm member 140 having a single rod holding section 142 thereon. The holding arm member 140 is centrally located on the front wall surface 124 of

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Applicant has canceled Claims 2 and 4.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 (Amended). Curtain mounting brackets for curtain rods for use with conventional blind bracket mounting devices of a blind assembly for attaching one or more curtain rods thereon in order to hold a curtain and/or valance thereto, comprising:

a) a first bracket housing including a first holding wall member having an upper channel [first perimeter edge with an upper first retaining tab member thereon], a lower channel [first perimeter edge with a lower first retaining tab member thereon], a first side perimeter edge and a second side perimeter edge;

b) said first holding wall member [including an integrally connected first curtain rod holding element thereon] having mounted thereon a first curtain rod holding prong member and a second curtain rod holding prong member;

c) said upper channel [first retaining tab member of said first holding wall member] for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel [retaining tab member of said first holding wall member] for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing one end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device;

d) a second bracket housing including a second holding wall member having an upper channel [second perimeter edge with an upper second retaining tab member thereon], a lower channel [second perimeter edge with a lower second retaining tab member thereon], a third side perimeter edge and a fourth side perimeter edge;

e) said second holding wall member [including an integrally connected second curtain rod holding element thereon] having mounted thereon a third curtain rod holding prong member and a fourth curtain rod holding prong member;

f) said upper channel [second retaining tab member of said second holding wall member] for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel [second retaining tab member of said second holding wall member] for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing the other end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device; and

g) said [first and second] curtain rod holding prong members [elements of said first and second holding wall members] are for receiving one or more curtain rods thereon[;].

3(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 1 [2], wherein said [outer] first curtain rod holding prong member includes a first side wall having an upper first prong tab member thereon, and said [inner] second curtain rod holding prong member includes a second side wall having an upper second prong tab member thereon.

5(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 3[4], wherein said [outer] third curtain rod holding prong member includes a third side wall having an upper third prong tab member thereon, and said [inner] fourth curtain rod holding prong member includes a fourth side wall having an upper fourth prong tab member thereon.

6(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 5, wherein said upper second and fourth prong tab members of said [inner] second and fourth curtain rod holding prong members are used to receive an inner first flat curtain rod thereon, and said upper first and third prong tab members of said [outer] first and third curtain rod holding prong members are used to receive an outer second flat curtain rod thereon.

7(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 1[2], wherein said [outer] first and third curtain rod holding prong members are centrally positioned on said first and third side perimeter edges of said first and second holding wall members, respectively.

8(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 1[4], wherein said [inner] second and fourth curtain rod holding prong members are centrally positioned on said second and fourth side perimeter edges of said first and second holding wall members, respectively.

9(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 1[2], wherein said [outer] first and second [inner first] curtain rod holding prong members on said first holding wall member are in a parallel relationship with each other.

10(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 1[4], wherein said [outer second] third and [inner second] fourth curtain rod holding prong members on said second holding wall member are in a parallel relationship with each other.

11(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said first holding wall member [integrally connected first curtain rod holding element] includes a first holding arm member having a first set of one or more rod holding sections therein, said first set of one or more rod holding sections of said first holding arm member for holding in place one end of a cylindrical curtain rod.

13(Amended). Curtain mounting bracket in accordance with Claim 11[1], wherein said second holding wall member [integrally connected second curtain rod holding element] includes a second holding arm member having a second set of one or more rod holding sections therein, said second set of one or more rod holding sections of said second holding arm member for holding in place the other end of a cylindrical curtain rod.

19(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said brackets [can be] are made from durable, rigid moldable plastics or from light-weight stamped metals.

21(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets for curtain rods for use with conventional blind bracket mounting devices of a blind assembly for attaching one or more flat curtain rods thereon in order to hold a curtain and/or valance thereto, comprising:

a) a first bracket housing including a first holding wall member having an upper channel [first perimeter edge with an upper first retaining tab member thereon], a lower channel [first perimeter edge with a lower first retaining tab member thereon], a first side perimeter edge and a second side perimeter edge;

b) said first holding wall member having attached thereto [an outer] a first curtain rod holding prong member having a first side wall with an upper first prong tab member thereon, and said first holding wall member having attached thereto [an inner] a second curtain rod holding prong member having a second side wall with an upper second prong tab member thereon;

c) said upper channel [first retaining tab member] of said first holding wall member for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel [retaining tab member] of said first holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing one end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices;

d) a second bracket housing including a second holding wall member having an upper channel [second perimeter edge with an upper second retaining tab member thereon], and a lower channel [second perimeter edge with a lower second retaining tab member thereon], a third side perimeter edge and a fourth side perimeter edge;

e) said second holding wall member having attached thereto [an outer] a third curtain rod holding prong member having a third side wall with an upper third prong tab member thereon, and said second holding wall member having attached thereto [an inner] a fourth curtain rod holding prong member having a fourth side wall with an upper forth prong tab member thereon;

f) said upper channel [second retaining tab member] of said second holding wall member for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel [second retaining tab member] of said second holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing the other end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device; and

g) said upper second and fourth prong tab members of said [inner] second and fourth curtain rod holding prong members receive the inner first flat curtain rod thereon, and said upper first and third prong tab members of said [outer] first and third curtain rod holding prong members receive the outer second flat curtain rod thereon.

22(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 21, wherein said [outer] first and third curtain rod holding prong members are centrally positioned on said first and third side perimeter edges of said first and second holding wall members, respectively.

23(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 21, wherein said [inner] second and fourth curtain rod holding prong members are centrally positioned on said second and fourth side perimeter edges of said first and second holding wall members, respectively.

24(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 21, wherein said [outer] first and [inner first] second curtain rod holding prong members on said first holding wall member are in a parallel relationship with each other.

25(Amended). [Blind] C[c]urtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 21, wherein said [outer second] third and [inner second] fourth curtain rod holding prong members on said second holding wall member are in a parallel relationship with each other.

26(Amended). [Blind] C[c]urtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 21, wherein said brackets [can be] are made from durable, rigid moldable plastics or from lightweight stamped metals.

27(Amended). [Blind] C[c]urtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 21, wherein said brackets [can] may hold in excess of five (5) pounds of weight when in an assembled state and in operational use thereof.

28(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 21, wherein each of said holding wall members have a height dimension of 1 ¼ inches, a width dimension of 7/8 of an inch and a wall thickness in the range of 1/32 to 1/16 of an inch.

29(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 21, wherein each of said curtain rod holding prong members have a height dimension of ¾ of an inch, a width dimension of ¾ of an inch, and a wall thickness dimension in the range of 1/32 to 1/16 of an inch.

30(Amended). [Blind] C[c]urtain mounting brackets in accordance with Claim 21, wherein each of said holding wall members include two or more of said curtain rod holding prong members.

31(Amended). Curtain mounting brackets for curtain rods for use with conventional blind bracket mounting devices of a blind assembly for attaching one or more cylindrical curtain rods thereon in order to hold a curtain and/or valance thereto, comprising:

- a) a first bracket housing including a first holding wall member having an upper channel [first perimeter edge with an upper first retaining tab member thereon], and a lower channel [first perimeter edge with a lower first retaining tab member thereon];
- b) said first holding wall member having [mounted thereon] a first holding arm member mounted thereon with [having] a first set of one or more rod holding sections therein; said first set of one or more rod holding sections of said first holding arm member for holding in place one end of the cylindrical curtain rod;
- c) said upper channel [first retaining tab member] of said first holding wall member for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel [retaining tab member] of said first holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing one end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices;
- d) a second bracket housing including a second holding wall member having an upper channel [second perimeter edge with an upper second retaining tab member thereon], and a lower channel [second perimeter edge with a lower second retaining tab member thereon];

e) said second holding wall member having [mounted thereon] a second holding arm member mounted thereon with [having] a second set of one or more rod holding sections therein, said second set of one or more rod holding sections of said second holding arm member for holding in place the other end of the cylindrical curtain rod;

f) said upper channel [second retaining tab member] of said second holding wall member for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel [second retaining tab member] of said second holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing the other end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device; and

g) said first and second holding arm members for holding in place the ends of one or more cylindrical curtain rods in a parallel relationship with each other.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Curtain mounting brackets for curtain rods for use with conventional blind bracket mounting devices of a blind assembly for attaching one or more curtain rods thereon in order to hold a curtain and/or valance thereto. The curtain mounting brackets include a first bracket housing having a first holding wall member with an upper channel [first perimeter edge with an upper first L-shaped retaining tab member thereon], a lower channel [first perimeter edge with a lower first L-shaped retaining tab member thereon], a first side perimeter edge and a second side perimeter edge; the first holding wall member [includes an integrally connected first curtain rod holding element thereon] having mounted thereon a first curtain rod holding prong member and a second curtain rod holding prong member; and the upper and lower channels [first L-shaped retaining tab member] of the first holding wall member are for engaging and being joined to an upper and lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, respectively [and the lower L-shaped retaining tab member of the first holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device] for preventing one end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device. The curtain mounting brackets also include a second bracket housing having a second holding wall member with an upper channel [second perimeter edge with an upper second L-shaped retaining tab member thereon], a lower channel [second perimeter edge with a lower second

L-shaped retaining tab member thereon], a third side perimeter edge and a fourth side perimeter edge; the second holding wall member [includes an integrally connected second curtain rod holding element thereon] having mounted thereon a third curtain rod holding prong member and a fourth curtain rod holding prong member; and the upper and lower channels [second L-shaped retaining tab member] of the second holding wall member are for engaging and being joined to an upper and lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, respectively, [and lower second L-shaped retaining tab member of the second holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device] for preventing the other end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device. The [first and second] curtain rod holding prong members [elements] of the first and second holding wall members are used for receiving one or more curtain rods thereon.